1853

An Essay
on the
Vis Vitalis

Respectfully Submitted to the
Faculty
of the
Homeopathic Medical College
of
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One Thousand Eight Hundred & fifty three
By
J M Blakely
of
New York

Vis Vitalis

Or vital agency

That there is a motor power in the animal system, that propells its machinery and causes it to overcome the numerous obstacles to life; is so self evident, as to need only to be named to be believed. This principle which is commonly termed vital force is to the animal body what wind is to the sail & steam to the Engine. This power, as it were, stands as sentinel over vigilant, guarding & protecting the animal economy.

Whenever any foreign and unusual influence is exerted upon the animal system tending to produce an abnormal condition, this vital force rallies with promptness and energy; in resistance to such influences and struggles to

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Its reactive agency

That there is a motor power in the animal system, that propells its machinery and causes it to overcome the numerous obstacles to life; is so self evident, as to need only to be named to be believed. This principle which is commonly termed <u>vital force</u> is to the animal body what wind is to the sail & steam to the engine. This power, as it were, stands as sentinal, ever vigilant, guarding & protecting the animal economy.

Whenever any foreign and unusual influence is exerted upon the animal system tending to produce an abnormal condition, this vital force rallies with promptness and energy; in resistence to to such influence and struggles to

create a condition directly the opposite of that which the foreign influence was adapted to produce

For example; if the hands become cold from the application of snow and the circulation thus becomes impeded; this vital force sends back the circulating fluid with a doubled energy & the part becomes hot & swollen, so that it not only becomes restored to its accustomed temperature but there follows an excess of circulation & animal heat

In like manner, if the physician administers an anodine to induce quiet & and sleep in a restless patient. there may follow a temporary improvement of these symptoms; But soon the reactive vital force, overcomes this primary impression and forces a change even to an opposite extreme. and thus the patient is rendered even more wakeful &

restless than before.

Again; if laxative or cathartic medicine is administered in case of constipation, it may afford present relief; but the sentinal of life & health speedily comes to the rescue of the invaded part, and endeavors to make reparation for the injury produced by this unusual irritation and drain upon the system, by forcing the bowels into a more extremely constipated condition The history of dispepsia the world over, confirms this doctrine. No one afflicted with chronic constipation ever recovered while using cathartics.

A most palpable violation of this law, is the common use of soda or any alkaline substance, as prescribed by the old School of medicine, for the purpose of overcoming that ever troublesome malady of the Dispepsia, namely; acidity in the Stomach. Under the operation of

this principle nature, as if indignant at such encroachments upon the nutritive organs, soon creates, in her laboratory an overwhelming amount of acid secretions, by way of setting up the equilibrium and resisting the offensive influence of the alkali

In like manner a great error is often committed when in such cases of acidity in the alimentary canal, the patient is directed to use alkaline food; or those kinds of food which contain a greater proportion of alkaline substance especially animal food, enjoining upon him to avoid all acids. This method is equally a violation of the great principle of reaction; and the subject of such an experiment will invariably find the tendency to acidity greatly increased

On the other hand, if he will resort to

the use of acid foods, or acid influence the vital force will constantly labor to create an alkaline condition in opposition to the acid impression, and this condition once established the acidity with all its attendant evils, is effectually & permanently removed.

Who ever heard knew of permanent relief from acidity of the stomach from the use of soda? But many have been cured from of such an affection, from the use of lemons alone This is Homeopathic; And this is Homeopathy

This principle is a universal law of the animal economy and its practicle operation will always follow any unusual impress and foreign impression; unless that impression is so great as to overpower the vital force. This condition not unfrequently occurs. Over-exertion or overexcitement may so far

expend this vital power, as Mr Brown it will become incapable of reaction; in which case the subject at length, expires for want of a sufficient motor power to longer propel the animal machinery. The Allopath by his repeated and massive doses of active medicine; by his depleting and enervating treatment, may so far exhaust the vitality, that the wheels of life will stop; like a ship at sea when there is no longer steam in the engine or wind to the sails.

This doctrine explains the theory of "primary & secondary effect of medicine" The secondary effect is nothing more or less, than the reaction of the vital force against the primary effect Herein consists a marked difference between the Allopathic & Homeopathic practice - the one depends solely upon the primary effect of his medicine, not

considering that nature as the enemy of every foreign innovation, will rally to resist that impression of his medicine, and establish the opposite condition. It is true that by repeated & massive doses of medicine nature may be baffled in her efforts for a time, until the Physician has constructed even a pyramid of his primary impressions, but finally the reactive force if not crushed forever will rally and upset the whole structure of his theoretical treatment

On the other hand the Homeopath, graduating his dose so as not to create any severe primary impression, but sufficient to excite reaction; and selecting those remedies whose secondary effect is adapted to produce a cure; thereby incites & receives the aid & co-operation of the vital force in his efforts to overcome disease and ~~effect~~ restore health

Another important difference also consists in the fact that whereas the primary effect of medicine is of short duration; the secondary effect; or that of produced by the reaction of the vital force is lasting and permanent

The one, Methods is at war with Nature. The other cooperation with Nature.

The one not only invades the human system in such a manner as to cause the vital force to expend its energy in resisting the medical impressions; but actually to exhaust the waste and destroy its recuperative power. While the other fosters and cherishes the vital principle as the only source of curative power. The one imposes upon nature the burden of resisting & removing the powerful morbid impressions of massive doses of medicine; while the other only excites nature only to the resistance of natural disease